



Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

For more information about
healthy lifestyles and aging services,
contact Ohio's aging network:

1-866-243-5678
www.aging.ohio.gov



is an equal opportunity
employer and service provider.

Governor John R. Kasich
Interim Director Beverley L. Laubert

*Engage at
Every Age!*

May 31, 2018
Ohio Statehouse Atrium

Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame 2018 Inductees



Richard P. and
Frances H. Anderson
Maumee



Speaker William G.
Batchelder III
Medina



Sister Sally
Duffy, SC
Cincinnati



Ronald
Dwinells, MD
Poland



Dorothy J.
Gackstetter
Graytown



Mary L.
McDonald
Mansfield



Gary G.
Miller, CEM
Cincinnati



Carolyn
Nelson
Sunbury



John A.
Ruthven
Cincinnati



Gail J.
Rymer, PhD
Little Hocking



Bertalan L.
Szabo
Munroe Falls

Welcome!

Since 1977, more than 450 individuals have been inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. The Hall recognizes the many ways Ohio's elders "Engage at Every Age" and continue to grow, thrive and contribute throughout their lives. Its members are leaders, advocates and role models, and they personify the many ways our elders are crucial resources for our state, nation and beyond.

Leading our ceremony today are Beverley L. Laubert, interim director of the Ohio Department of Aging, and Duana Patton, director of the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging in Ontario and presently serving as vice president of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

This year's inductees range in age from 63 to 97. Their stories are compelling and represent a lifetime of dedication, ingenuity, perseverance, kindness and compassion.



Beverley L.
Laubert



Duana
Patton

*Engage at
Every Age!*

Richard P. and Frances H. Anderson – Maumee



For more than 70 years, Mr. Richard P. and Frances H. Anderson have demonstrated exemplary spirit and commitment to civic engagement in the Toledo community.

Mr. Anderson has been a part of The Andersons, Inc., since his father founded the company in 1947 as a family partnership. He worked his way up through the company, and in 1999, was named Chairman of the Board. Today, he is Chairman Emeritus of the company that is a major player in the nation's grain, plant nutrient, railroad car leasing and ethanol industries.

Mrs. Anderson has a legacy of service and support for her community. She has touched the lives of many through her involvement with Mobile Meals, Lucas County Children Services, Toledo Museum of Art, St. Luke's Hospital, Boy Scouts of America, the United Way and more.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson embody a caring philosophy, a generous spirit and a willingness to take on challenges. Mr. Anderson says, "Both sets of our parents were role models of servant leadership. We have been shaped by our family values and experiences." The central theme of the company's mission statement is, "to serve God by serving others."



In 2009, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were honored for their philanthropy when more than 140 individuals, families and businesses contributed nearly \$700,000 in their name at the Toledo Community Foundation to help stabilize struggling nonprofit community organizations following the recession.

Mrs. Anderson is a member of the Christ Child Society of Toledo and the University of Toledo's Women and Philanthropy. She is past president of the Mother's Clubs of St. Ursula Academy and St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy. She serves as a lector, eucharistic minister and makes hospital visitations for St. Joan of Arc Parish. She has attended 7 a.m. mass almost daily for years.

In 2010, the Erie Shores Boy Scout Council honored Mr. Anderson for more than half a century of service by dedicating the Richard P. Anderson Pioneer Scout Reservation and the Anderson Preserve in his name. He was inducted into the 2001 Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame and is a 2016 Jefferson Award winner.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson both come from large but close families. She is one of 13 children and he is one of seven. Married for 64 years, they have six children, all happily married, 24 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, with more on the way.

Staying involved in the lives of others helps to keep them healthy and engaged. They plan to stay active in their family, church, community and social relationships, as well as continuing in their philanthropic mission.



Speaker William G. Batchelder III – Medina



Speaker William G. Batchelder III was a key player in some of the most significant events in Ohio's legislative history. He was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1968 and served that body for 38 years, making him the second longest-serving member of the state legislature. He served as Speaker of the House from 2011 – 2014.

During the Savings and Loan Crisis of the 1980s, Speaker Batchelder worked with Democratic Governor Dick Celeste to draft bipartisan legislation to protect depositors' savings at stricken savings and loan associations.

Early in his legislative career, he participated in redrafting Ohio's criminal code. Clarifying and modifying it helped to modernize the code to better serve the public, law enforcement and Ohio's judicial system.

In the 1990s, Speaker Batchelder was Chair of the Joint Committee on Ethics during the "pay-to-play" scandal. He referred both the Republican President of the Ohio Senate and the Democratic Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives to a prosecutor and both were convicted of wrong-doing. Speaker Batchelder is the only ethics committee chair ever to have referred the heads of both legislative chambers to a prosecutor.



Speaker Batchelder drafted the legislation that created the School Choice Ohio Voucher program, the first program of its type in the nation to clear the U.S. Supreme Court after being challenged in the lower-federal courts. He recalls, "Thousands of children – particularly inner-city children – have been offered a real chance to obtain a decent education."

During his first term as speaker, Speaker Batchelder drafted much of the language for House Bill 1, which created Jobs Ohio, a private non-profit corporation designed to drive job creation and new capital investment. In 2017, he was appointed to serve on the Jobs Ohio Board of Directors.

Speaker Batchelder credits his parents for showing him and his siblings, by their example, the importance of academic achievement, public service and commitment to God. "My mother and father encouraged all five of us to strive to be the best we could be in whatever we chose to do with our lives."

In addition to his illustrious political career, Speaker Batchelder also has had an accomplished career as a lawyer, judge and educator.

He and his wife of 51 years, Alice, have two children and eight grandchildren. They enjoy traveling and spending time with their family.

Speaker Batchelder says, "My goal was to serve with dedication the principles of limited government and integrity in public service. I hope that I have had some measure of success."



Sister Sally Duffy, SC – Cincinnati



Sister Sally Duffy, SC, has devoted her life to sacrifice, love, faithfulness and justice with a mission to improve the world around her. Calling on her expertise in education, political science, pastoral and crisis counseling, and health care administration, she works with community leaders and organizations to create safer and healthier neighborhoods.

From 2004 to 2017, Sr. Sally was president and executive director of the Sisters of Charity Ministry Foundation, which supported 1,000 non-profit organizations with \$158 million in grants. Programs funded by the foundation provide services for those living in poverty, support healthy communities, strive for social justice and ensure access to quality education. Sr. Sally led her staff as they carefully managed their grant-funding process, offering grantees educational workshops and opportunities to collaborate with other organizations to achieve common goals.

Sr. Sally's advocacy and leadership contributed to greater access to affordable health care through the expansion of Medicaid in Ohio, as well as established a free health clinic in Cincinnati's Price Hill community. She fought to protect vulnerable residents in low-income neighborhoods from predatory lending and drove the development of a homesteading program in Price Hill to remove the barriers to home ownership for deserving families. She defended the rights of neighborhoods to have vacant buildings maintained to keep community members safe.

She also supports and advocates for the rights and dignity of immigrants. Sr. Sally provides a strong voice for the need for comprehensive immigration reform, both locally and nationally.

Personal health and fitness is another focus for Sr. Sally. She participates annually in marathons or half marathons to raise funds for Team in Training for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Early in her career, she served as the first female head coach of sports at Bishop Watterson High School in Columbus in 1968. In 1970 she was selected by the U.S. Olympic Committee as one of the top 50 female basketball players in the country.

Sr. Sally earned a Master's Degree in Education in Guidance and Counseling from Xavier University, a Master's in Public Administration in Health Care and Human Resources from the University of Colorado, a Master's of Divinity from Loyola University and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the College of Mount St. Joseph in 2008 and from Xavier University in 2018.

Sr. Sally serves as a board or committee member to many organizations.

She is known for asking key probing questions to get to the heart of an issue: "Who is winning? Who is losing? Who decides who is winning and losing? How am I or we colluding?"

Sr. Sally remains humble about her work and accomplishments. "I really cannot take credit. Candidly, this is God's work and not mine," she said.



Ronald Dwinneels, MD – Poland



Dr. Ronald Dwinneels is a dreamer and visionary who has dedicated his life and career to exploring how to turn impossibilities into realities. His 32-year medical practice and public philanthropy transformed care delivery in northeast Ohio.

Dr. Dwinneels earned his bachelor's degree in biology and graduated with a medical degree from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine in 1983. He later attended the George Washington University in Washington D.C. where he earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

During his three-year pediatric residency at Tod Children's Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio, he wrote a grant proposal to open a medical clinic for the poor and underprivileged in the Mahoning Valley. He became the clinic's first pediatrician and medical director. The clinic grew and became ONE Health Ohio, with Dr. Dwinneels serving as chief executive officer.

The clinical facilities have provided medical, dental and mental health care to more than one million patients. They serve those most in need: the medically uninsured, underinsured or underserved.

Dr. Dwinneels has conducted and published clinical research studies into integrative health care delivery programs, disparities of health care, health economics and integrative behavioral health care. His research is recognized internationally.

Dr. Dwinneels established the Butterflies and Hope Memorial Foundation to philanthropically support behavioral health services for those in need. The foundation also honors the memory of his parents, particularly his mother.

He raises funds for the foundation through his mountain climbing activities. "Once on the mountain, many hazards and mistakes can occur; however, with persistence and hard work, the summit is achievable just as success is achievable in many of life's endeavors," he said. He has climbed the summits of 14 mountains and in June 2018, will climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

In 2004, President George W. Bush visited the ONE Health Ohio clinics and held a town hall meeting with Dr. Dwinneels. The doctor was also invited to testify before the United States Congress.

Dr. Dwinneels teaches at Northeast Ohio Medical University as a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics. He is also on the faculty at Ohio University College of Medicine, Kent State University and Youngstown State University. He has been honored with six outstanding teaching awards for his lectures on leadership and health care management.

Dr. Dwinneels and his wife of 38 years, Kathy, have five children. He stays active by continuing his work, lecturing on leadership and integrative health care programs and writing.



Dorothy J. Gackstetter – Graytown



Dorothy J. Gackstetter has been going for the gold all her life. Her interests are varied, but her focus remains strong, whether the challenge be athletic competition, equestrianism, clothing design or being a leader in her community. She has inspired the local youth to get involved and stay positive.

Mrs. Gackstetter has been participating in the Senior Olympics for more than 30 years. She has competed at state and national competitions throughout her Olympic career. In 2017, at age 84, she won gold medals in the shot put, discus, long jump and both the 100 and 200 meter runs.

Equestrianism is another area in which Mrs. Gackstetter excels and shares her knowledge. She taught the local elementary school students about caring, grooming, feeding and training horses during “Right to Read” and “Saddle Up and Read” learning sessions. She was a 4-H advisor for 26 years, helping to train young people on working with horses and sewing.

Mrs. Gackstetter was a Cub Scout leader for 20 years. She took scouts on campouts, tours and other adventures. She also assisted with the Girl Scouts of Ottawa County. She taught the Cub Scouts and other local children and adults about swimming safety at her home pool.



Mrs. Gackstetter is an accomplished clothing designer and seamstress. She is well-known for her original costumes -- especially her western wear. She's created custom suede western wear, wedding dresses and decorated blouses. She has also knitted hats, sweaters and afghans for those in need.

In 2010, when “American Idol” season 9 runner up Crystal Bowersox returned home to Elliston, Ohio, Mrs. Gackstetter organized a homecoming celebration honoring Crystal and the area's rich history. She worked with artist Robert Poiry to create three signs depicting famous people and events in the area to commemorate Crystal's addition to that rich heritage.

Mrs. Gackstetter has been a member of the Ottawa Historical Society for several years. She has also exhibited many of her personal items, such as western items, clothes and photos, at Riverview Nursing Home.

Mrs. Gackstetter was the first inductee to the Ottawa County Senior Hall of Fame in May 2011. She was inducted into the Ohio Senior Olympics Hall of Fame in 2013.

She kept all five of her children involved in creative activities, such as sewing, art and stained glass lessons. She is proud of her family's achievements. Two of her children showed champion horses locally and at the Ohio State Fair. One daughter won many 4-H clothing projects, then went onto college in New York City, and started her own company.



Mrs. Gackstetter believes that you are never too old to succeed at what interests you and you are never too young to get started.

Mary L. McDonald – Mansfield



Throughout her life, Mary L. McDonald has demonstrated her strength, patience and passion to help others as an advocate and a visionary leader. Her career put her in a position to change the lives of many in her Mansfield community, especially older adults.

Her service to seniors began in 1975, after her husband passed away and she raised her two children as a single mother. She applied to work with the Mansfield Community Action Senior Outreach Program. While she didn't have social work experience, her prospective employers were impressed by her extensive church service and decided to give her a chance.

A year later, she was named project director by the board of trustees. The board applied for and won a grant under the leadership of Paul A. Stillwell for the construction of a senior center. The Friendship Center opened in 1978 with Mrs. McDonald as its director. Under her leadership, the center connected area seniors with available services and collaborated with other agencies in Richland County to identify and fill service gaps. She remained at the helm for 20 years, retiring in 1998 to care for her ailing mother.

After her mother passed away in 2000, Mrs. McDonald began volunteering with the Alzheimer's Association and started a support group at her church. In returning to the workforce, she sought out Experience Works for help. Experience Works provides on-the-job training opportunities for older adults by placing them with nonprofit organizations. She insisted she be placed with organizations that served seniors as their primary focus.



When Mrs. McDonald learned that the Friendship Center had to close, she sprung to action. Under Central City Economic Development, she implemented a new senior group and formed “Yes We Can Seniors.” The group got a permanent home in 2010, when the City of Mansfield donated the city's armory to the Mary McLeod-Bethune Intervention and Enrichment Center.

Mrs. McDonald has served on the boards of many local organizations, including United Way, the Alzheimer's Association, as well as the board of Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging.

Her service has been honored many times. The American Business Women's Association named Mrs. McDonald “Woman of the Year” in 2000. The Midwest Affordable Housing Management Association gave her its Award of Achievement in 2003. The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging presented her with the Outstanding Senior Award in 2006. In April 2018, she was given the Lifetime Membership Award by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Unit 3190.



Today, Mrs. McDonald remains active in the Alzheimer's grief support group and Providence Baptist Church. Her greatest joy comes in part during the three days a week she continues to work for “Yes We Can Seniors.”

Gary G. Miller, CEM – Cincinnati



When others run from trouble, you'll find Gary G. Miller running toward it. For more than 40 years, this "Master of Disaster" has devoted his career and talents to helping people and communities prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, both natural and man-made.

Mr. Miller is a Certified Emergency Manager and was one of seven individuals in the United States identified by the American Red Cross to serve as the Senior Red Cross Director for Major Disaster Operations. He was an administrative director of the American Red Cross Critical Response Team, which represents Red Cross at the Homeland Security Emergency Operations Center in Washington, D.C.

He has served as the senior Red Cross official on more than 30 major disaster operations, including job director of the American Red Cross September 11 World Trade Center terrorist attack relief operation in New York; director of the multiple hurricane relief operations in Florida; and deputy director of Hurricane Katrina relief for Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. He also was part of the \$58 million Red Cross relief operation in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean after Hurricane Hugo in 1989, and the 1997 Ohio River flooding.



Mr. Miller retired from full-time employment at the American Red Cross in 2007, but continues as a volunteer through major disasters, planning and advising. He consults with and assists government agencies, schools, churches and airports in writing disaster plans. He has discussed disaster and emergency preparedness and relief on national and international radio television programs, and through public appearances.

"Disaster management can be dangerous and stressful," he said. "I think you should keep your sense of humor, dedicate yourself to your family, keep busy, keep helping people, don't let your ego beat you and trust in God."

Mr. Miller received the Red Cross Cincinnati Area Chapter and National Headquarters "Tiffany Award" for employee excellence in 1989. April 27, 2007 was proclaimed Gary Miller Day in Cincinnati and he received the Key to the City in a special ceremony.

He was the chairman of trustees at his church and is a current elder. He is also a board member on the Cincinnati Fire Museum, Cincinnati FBI Citizen Academy and the Greater Cincinnati Hazardous Material Team.

Mr. Miller and his wife Carolyn have three grown children and seven grandchildren. Mr. Miller has assembled an extensive collection of miniature ambulances from around the globe.

"I hope I have made things better and have always done the right thing," he said. He adds, "The joy of assisting people who need help after a crisis has been a blessing."



Carolyn Nelson – Sunbury



Although Carolyn Nelson retired from her physical education teaching job at age 64, she has not retired from teaching everyone who has the pleasure to know her. She embodies a positive image of elderhood and stands as an example for youth and adults alike in her central Ohio community.

Mrs. Nelson went beyond the curriculum. She took notice of students who faced physical, mental or social challenges and took them under her wing. She went beyond athletics and physical activity to promote good health for a lifetime.

Mrs. Nelson used supportive and individual approaches to help students overcome obstacles to success. She also reached out to worried and stressed parents. With her encouragement, parents soon understood that she was working in their child's best interest, helping them grow in confidence with valuable life skills.

Mrs. Nelson has inspired and influenced her students' lifestyle and career choices. She stays in touch with many of her former students and continues to model healthy living. As a result, her students carry a little bit of Mrs. Nelson with them throughout their lives.

Kayla Winn says of her former teacher, "It's those quick words of affirmation or a high five that stick with a child when they complete a task



they once deemed impossible. Mrs. Nelson's love for physical education has stuck with me and inspired me to live a healthy life and always look for my next adventure. I still receive positive messages, teaching magazines or just a simple note to catch up from Mrs. Nelson."

Jeff Laubert recalls, "Throughout my time at Oak Creek, Mrs. Nelson did everything she could to encourage us kids to be active. If a student struggled, she showed them ways to modify the movement. Once I was in high school, we reconnected on Facebook. It's been wonderful to keep in contact with her and

have an adult role model to learn from. She truly has a passion for her students and does everything she can to positively impact their lives."

She has received many honors throughout her career, including the 2005 Meritorious Ohio Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Award.

Mrs. Nelson and her husband Tom have been married for 43 years and have two children and three grandchildren. Mrs. and Mr. Nelson enjoy traveling and documenting the history of their families through photographs. Mrs. Nelson stays active through biking, walking and observing nature.



Mrs. Nelson has never stopped teaching those around her how to find wisdom, happiness and fulfillment. Her life and her career stand as a testament to those principles.

John A. Ruthven – Cincinnati



Naturalist, author, lecturer and internationally acknowledged master of wildlife art, John A. Ruthven is often called the “20th Century John James Audubon.” Like his childhood hero, Mr. Ruthven made a name for himself by expressing the wonders of nature and wildlife with infinite detail.

After serving in World War II, Mr. Ruthven studied at the Cincinnati Art Academy and the Jack Storey Central Academy of Commercial Art. He founded his company Wildlife International, Inc. in Georgetown.

His first major break in commercial art came when a local manufacturer asked Mr. Ruthven to draw some children for a new product called Play-Doh. His drawing became the face of the company and the money he earned from that commission allowed him to continue his passion of painting wildlife.

In 1960, Mr. Ruthven won the much-coveted Federal Duck Stamp competition. This recognition afforded him a full-time career in wildlife art. In 1967, he was chosen to create the Ducks Unlimited Certificate of Merit for wetland conservation with his Oakgrove Pintails painting and prints.

His artwork has been featured at the Smithsonian’s Preservation and Research Center and has been shown in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, the White House and the Ohio Statehouse.



Mr. Ruthven was the only artist invited on a search team for a bird in the Philippines that was previously unknown to science. His painting of the Panay-striped Babbler is on display at the Cincinnati Museum Center and the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

He recently worked with 14 young artists on a group mural on the side of a three-story, 90-foot-wide building in Cincinnati. The mural depicts the death of Martha, the world’s last Passenger Pigeon.

In the late 1990s and in 2016, Mr. Ruthven was asked to create a Cardinal design for the Ohio license plate to benefit conservation.

Mr. Ruthven worked with the Cincinnati Zoo and the Cincinnati Nature Center on many different projects. Sales from reproductions of his work raised funds for attractions.

In 2004, President George W. Bush presented him with the National Medal of Arts from the National Endowment for the Arts. He became the first wildlife artist to receive this highest honor.

In 1977, Mr. Ruthven and his wife Judy bought and restored the boyhood home of Ulysses S. Grant in Georgetown. They opened it to the public in 1982 and donated this National Historic Landmark to the state of Ohio in 2001.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruthven were married for 43 years until her recent passing. They raised two children and have two grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He stays active through his lifelong hobbies of bird watching, hunting, fly fishing and traveling with family and friends. He still paints five days a week.



Gail J. Rymer, PhD – Little Hocking



Dr. Gail Rymer believes that all human beings deserve to live with dignity and respect and have opportunities to remain engaged with the world around them. She devoted her life and career to lifting others up when they could not stand up for themselves.

Dr. Rymer was born the year after her father returned from World War II and quickly became her father’s shadow. He instilled in her the values of dedication and discipline he learned in the U.S. Marine Corps. She carried these values into her pursuit of education and her career.

Dr. Rymer earned her bachelor’s, masters and doctorate degrees from Ohio University. Her career began with her jobs in health planning and the ministry. She noticed that there were not many opportunities in the community for older adults to feel valued, loved and engaged. She organized efforts to visit elders and host senior luncheons and meetings. She reached out to other churches to recruit them in these efforts. She started food banks and Christmas Day dinners for those who were alone.

After Dr. Rymer earned her doctorate degree, she worked in community mental health and later opened her private practice. Her practice focuses on services and quality of life for the elderly. Older adults are often victims

of abuse, neglect or exploitation. An elder is abused every five seconds in America- a fact she simply will not accept.

Working with older adults, she realized that the barriers to health care for seniors were notable. She was shocked by the conditions of state mental hospitals. At the time, many of the elders were restrained and had little if any cognitive stimulation. She exposed the poor conditions of these institutions in a series of articles and lobbied for mental health changes.

Building on that success, Dr. Rymer continued to advocate and start programs like “We Care,” a hotline for elders. She helped

start the Southeast Ohio Elder Abuse Commission to educate others that elder abuse is the number one and fastest growing crime in America.

As an elder in the Presbyterian Church and a lay pastor of a rural church, she addresses the needs of poverty stricken communities by partnering with other churches to complete home modifications and repairs for seniors.

Dr. Rymer and her husband Donald had two daughters, one is deceased, and one granddaughter. They share their home with her two psychotherapy assistant Pugs and his two Great Pyrenees. They are looking forward to celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in Santorini, Greece.

Dr. Rymer belongs to multiple professional and civic organizations and is part of the Attorney General’s Elder Justice Unit as a board member.

Dr. Rymer says, “I hope that I have, in some way, touched the lives of others by my actions and words so they might know the spirit of love.”



Bertalan L. Szabo – Munroe Falls



Bertalan L. Szabo discovered nature at the age of four, when a neighbor introduced him to the great outdoors. Since then, he has done the same for countless other young people, helping them to love nature as he does.

After serving in the Army in World War II, Mr. Szabo earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's degree in plant pathology from Ohio University. In January 1951, he was hired at the Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio to manage Evamere, the 500 acre dairy farm. From there, he began working for Akron Metro Parks as a park manager and ranger of Goodyear Heights Metropolitan Park in 1957. He soon began leading nature walks for the local school children, which expanded to talks with garden clubs and other groups about Metro Parks.

Mr. Szabo was promoted to naturalist in 1963. He helped launch the park's Fall Hiking Spree in 1964, which continues as an annual event and is nationally recognized. Approximately 1,600 hikers participated that first year. The event now attracts nearly 40,000 annual participants.

Mr. Szabo retired in 1991 as Chief Naturalist of the now renamed Summit Metro Parks. Mr. Szabo has been active in the National Audubon Society



for 50 years. He also is a founding member of the National Association for Interpretation and served as president from 1969-1971. Its worldwide membership of 5,000 environmentalists work to preserve the history of the local, natural regions. He was appointed by the governor to serve on the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Natural Areas and Preserves Council.

His work and leadership have been widely recognized. He was appointed Chief Naturalist Emeritus, Summit County Metro Parks in 2003, and was inducted into their hall of fame in 2002. He was given the 2006 Senior/Retired Interpreter Award from the National Association for Interpretation. Mr. Szabo is a Fellow of the National

Association for Interpretation, the organization's highest honor.

Mr. Szabo stays active through many interests, including his work with nature. He volunteers, continuing to serve the park district by organizing its photographic and historical archives, a task he started in 1968. As of January, 2018, he had nearly reached his goal of 7,000 volunteer hours, which he has scheduled to complete this fall.

Mr. Szabo is the father of four children and 18 grandchildren. He has also passed along his love of nature and the naturalist tradition to them. His son and two of his grandsons followed in his professional footsteps.

"When I started our nature walks in 1957, the Metro Parks had 3,000 acres and six trails. They grew to 33,000 acres and 16 trails over this last half century. I believe that our naturalist programs helped pass park levies and I exposed local citizens and children to the wonders of our Metro Parks."



The Mission of the Ohio Department of Aging

Our mission is to deliver practical, person-centered strategies and services that will strengthen and support Ohio's elders and their communities.

Core Values

Promote Independence:

Provide resources that foster independence and autonomy throughout the lifespan.

Empower Communities:

Deliver sustainable, relevant solutions that empower communities to act within the best interest of their elders.

Challenge Ageism:

Promote new perspectives of aging that challenge the traditional declinist narrative.

Advocate for Excellence:

Advocate with and for Ohio's elders to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met.

Engage in Innovation:

Engage the aging network by staying innovative, flexible and attentive to the evolving needs of our partners and stakeholders.

Thank You

The Ohio Department of Aging would like to thank the Ohio General Assembly, the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Ohio's aging network professionals for their dedicated service on behalf of Ohio's elders.